

Welcome to our Annual Report to Parents for 2020/2021. The purpose of this report is to keep you informed regarding developments in the school and let you know a little about the work of the Governing Body.

Well, what a year it has been! Covid 19 continues to impact on everything and the school team has responded magnificently to the challenges. We welcomed all the children back in September only to face further lockdowns. Throughout, the school remained open for the children of key workers and those children deemed vulnerable, with high calibre home learning for the rest of the children. The school arranged food packages, became an information hub and certainly went the extra mile to support the community and keep everyone's spirits up. No-one was left behind and on behalf of all I want to thank Mrs Cador and her team for everything they did and continue to do. They have had to become experts in digital learning, teaching in bubbles, hand sanitations and wearing facemasks whilst keeping the children well, safe and learning. The whole focus has been caring for each other making time for the children to recover, get ready and then learn. I am sure you will all agree that Wrenbury School staff have done a great job under exceedingly difficult circumstances and continuing to do so.

It has been a strange time for governors too. All our meetings have continued to be on-line but we have an excellent clerk who has ensured that all statutory duties have been met through termly meetings of the Leadership and Management, Personal Development and Wellbeing and Teaching and Learning Committees and also a termly Full Governing Body Meeting. Alongside this, Link Governors have continued to have on-line meetings with individual staff to discuss curriculum responsibility, health and safety, special educational needs and safeguarding.

Leadership and Management (Finance/Staffing)

The school's budget has continued to be monitored regularly by the Governing Body and I am pleased to say that we have maintained a healthy budget moving forward. It has enabled us to maintain and increase staffing and also to carry out essential maintenance of the building and resources. Annually, a Schools Financial Value Standard and Assurance Statement is sent to the Local Authority outlining how we carry out financial operations. We continue to receive a good rating.

Governors are also responsible for Staffing. We were pleased to welcome Miss..... to Little Wrens in September and also I am sure you will all agree that the whole staff have given above and beyond to support your children through this challenging time. Alongside preparing work and establishing an exciting learning environment they have continue to receive professional development training often taken in their own time and we must thank them for their dedication to do this.

Personal Wellbeing and Development

This committee has responsibility for the health, safety and development of pupils and staff. This has been a particularly challenging time for everyone. Ensuring all were kept well both physically and mentally has been the main concern of this committee.

Pupils across the school have again spent a great deal of time out of school and missed friends and teachers. A recovery curriculum plan supported a phased return to learning. Initially emphasis was placed on helping students to familiarise themselves with the new routines and express their feelings. Committee members were informed about a variety of ways this was being supported including Colour Monster charts which children would colour due to how they were feeling each day. These were reviewed so that progress could be followed, patterns identified, and interventions implemented as necessary. It was noted that many children were thriving. The colour monsters have been very useful in helping to identify those that were not and required more support.

The Well-Being Clubs are now in place again. This enables pupils to have an opportunity to share concerns etc with staff in a relaxed atmosphere.

I am sure you will agree that the school continues to excel in supporting pupils well-being. Children feel happy and secure in school and this of course leads to great learning.

Attendance continues to be very good and in-line with attendance prior to the lockdown. Fortunately, we have had very little disruption due to 'bubble' closures and I would like to thank all parents for supporting school by following the Covid 19 rules to ensure the school environment stays as safe as possible for all those working in the building.

Teaching and Learning

Governors have continued to monitor the Teaching and Learning in school but unfortunately have not been able to visit the school as we would have liked to get first-hand experience of this. What has been wonderful is the information received via the News feed on the Website/Facebook. I particularly enjoyed all the photos of children learning at home and I know that this was all valuable experiences for them.

However, many of our pupils have had to learn remotely from home for some of the time this academic year. This meant that our teachers had the double task of preparing learning materials for both classroom and distant learning. Governors supported the purchase of a number of resources to enable this to happen. Pupils were able to access school through the Seesaw Programme and find advice on activities and learning materials. Teachers delivered the curriculum and children were able to communicate with teachers and each other by posting images of their home learning. Governors were pleased to hear some of the positive messages from parents and pupils about this positive experience.

CGP books covering reading, maths, spelling and grammar have also been purchased for children. These books can also be used at home if a child needs to self-isolate.

Governors have reviewed pupils academic progress regularly throughout the year. We have scrutinised pupils progress in the core subjects of literacy and numeracy. Governors have reviewed data relating to the progress made by pupils as they progressed through their stage of learning. Again, we have seen a good number of pupils make sustained or accelerated learning.

Although formal assessments have not taken place again this year we have been kept up to date with teacher assessments. You will be receiving your child's annual progress report soon and I am sure you will all be pleased.

The opportunity for pupils to experience in school and out of school visits has been very limited. But as you will have seen from our News Feed virtual lessons e.g. Chester Zoo Doodleicious Art, Dough Disco Day and many others have taken place. All these arranged contacts have enhanced the classroom learning.

The Governors have been able to monitor how the sports funding is spent. This obviously has included specialist sports coaching and equipment. Children have continued to take part in a variety of events e.g. cricket competitions, basketball finals and maintain the Sports Mark Gold.

Governors have been very pleased to see that 'Outside Learning' has supported the classroom activities and enabled children to have the space to play and investigate. The school continues to develop the grounds and this year a major project has started by the planting of trees from the Merseyside Forest Project. Children have also been growing sunflowers, hatching butterflies and using the pond to enhance their science work.

As Governors, we are confident that the school continues to provide an excellent education for your children. We have been oversubscribed for places this year in Reception and have a waiting list for Little Wrens. We are extremely proud of our school and the progress it has made over the past few years despite the challenges of a pandemic. We have some wonderful teachers and teaching assistants and other support staff. We would like to say thank you again to Mrs Cador and her staff; whose commitment to the children they work with is second to none. Daily they demonstrate their passion and purpose in delivering their best for those children.

Sadly for Wrenbury School, Mrs Rowlands had decided to retire. Mrs Rowlands has been a part of the school foryears. I infact appointed her as a ta and her work for the school has not stopped since. Her knowledge of the families and pupils of the school has been invaluable, and I know she will be greatly

missed by everyone. However, she deserves now to spend time on things of her choice but I am sure we will continue to see her in and around school in the future. Thank you for all that you have done for the school. Enjoy retirement Mrs Rowland.

We must not forget the role you as parents have played in supporting the school. I know it has been a demanding time for you too. I know you have all done a great job in supporting your children when at home and also for supporting staff in school. We have a superb, supportive community and I would like to thank you for everything you do.

We have been, very lucky to have Sarah Goodwin continuing to raise money, through online sales, for the Friends of Wrenbury School. She has managed to raisewhich is a remarkable achievement in a pandemic situation. Thankyou to everyone who purchased items but mostly importantly thank you to Sarah who has given up so much time and space in her home to accommodate this.

As you will see, the duties of a governor are many but first of all, some of the things we do not do! We are not managers in the day-to-day sense; the school is managed by the Headteacher and her management teams. We are not policeman or inspectors – it isn't our job to lay down the law nor to criticize the running of our school. Nor, on the other hand, do we replace a rubber-stamp or act simply as a pool of 'VIPs' to turn up at events. Our role is essential in raising performance and we are continuously striving to raise standards. We support the school as well as ask challenging and searching questions. We are involved in the school's self evaluation process, analysis of the school's data and target setting. We make sure the school makes the best possible use of their resources. All this makes for quite a tricky job. It is impossible to please everyone all the time, and that means well-established relationships between governors and the school community is very important.

In September we will have 2 Parent Governor Roles to fill. I hope you will give serious consideration to perhaps standing for election in the future as a governor and joining us in supporting Mrs Cador and her team in the next academic year.

Finally, I would like to thank those who are already on the Governing Board at present. It has not been an easy year but I am confident that we have done our very best to support the school.

I hope you all have a good summer break,

Mrs Jenny Davies (Chair of Governors)